United Nations A/C.1/53/L.13

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
23 October 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 71 (m)
General and complete disarmament

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Croatia, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uruguay: draft resolution

Small arms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/38 J of 9 December 1997,

Convinced of the need for a comprehensive approach to promote, at the global and regional levels, the control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner as a contribution to international peace and security,

Reaffirming the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, which implies that States also have the right to acquire arms with which to defend themselves,

Reaffirming also the right of self-determination of all peoples, in particular peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, and the importance of the effective realization of this right, as enunciated, *inter alia*, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), Chap. III,

Reaffirming further the urgent need for practical disarmament in the context of the conflicts the United Nations is actually dealing with and of the weapons that are actually killing people in the hundreds of thousands,

Reiterating its call on Member States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on small arms A/52/298 of 27 August 1997 to the

98-32020 (E) 241098

extent possible and where necessary in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations and/or through international and regional cooperation among police, intelligence, customs and border control services,

Reiterating also its request to the Secretary-General to implement the relevant recommendations as soon as possible within available financial resources and in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations where necessary, as well as its encouragement to Member States and the Secretary-General to carry out recommendations for post-conflict situations, including demobilization of former combatants and disposal and destruction of weapons,

Noting that the Secretary-General is, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts nominated by him on the basis of equitable geographical representation, preparing, for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, a report on (a) the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on small arms endorsed in General Assembly resolution 52/38 J, and (b) further actions recommended to be taken,

Noting also that the group of technical experts appointed by the Secretary-General to study the problems of ammunition and explosives in all their aspects has held its first meeting,

Noting further the replies to date to the Secretary-General's request to Member States for their views on the report of the Secretary-General on small arms (A/52/298) and on the steps that they have taken to implement its recommendations and, in particular, on the recommendations concerning the convening of an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects,

Taking note with interest of the work in progress for the elaboration of an international convention against transnational organized crime, including a protocol to combat illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the Economic and Social Council, and also of other related efforts by the Commission and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, in Vienna,

Underlining the importance of increasing coordination regarding the issue of small arms and light weapons including illicit manufacturing and trafficking therein, both among the relevant bodies of the United Nations and within the United Nations Secretariat, and welcoming in this context the decision of the Secretary-General to establish Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA),

1. *Decides* to convene an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects not later than 2001;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report containing his recommendations to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, with a view to arriving at a decision by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the objective, scope, agenda, dates, venue and preparatory committee of an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing a report in accordance with operative paragraph 2 of this resolution:

(a) To seek the views of Member States on the objective, scope, agenda, dates and venue of and preparatory work for an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects and to take into account these views as well as the views already expressed

by them in their reply to the Secretary-General's request for their views in accordance with operative paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 52/38 J of 9 December 1997; and

(b) To take into account the report of the Secretary-General on small arms A/52/298 of 27 August 1997 as well as relevant recommendations to be made in a report of the group of the governmental experts on small arms which will be submitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with operative paragraph 5 of the General Assembly resolution 52/38 J of 9 December 1997;

4. *Welcomes* an offer of the Government of Switzerland to host in Geneva, not later than 2001, an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in order to assist in preventing the illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons, to initiate a study as soon as possible within available financial resources on the feasibility of restricting the manufacture and trade of such weapons to the manufacturers and dealers authorized by States, and of establishing, within the United Nations system, a single database of such authorized manufacturers and dealers;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Small arms".